

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IGA-01 AGR-03 DEAE-00 L-02 IO-03

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SCI-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 AID-10 DRC-01 /065 W

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P R 141458Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2806

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T ANKARA 1167

LIMDIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: USG RESPONSE TO GOT REQUEST RE POPPY BAN

REF: ANKARA 1130

1. WE BELIEVE SITUATION IS THIS: TURKS ARE UNDER GENUINE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE TO "DO SOMETHING" FOR FARMERS IN FORMER POPPY AREA, AND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL STEAM BEHIND PROPOSITION THAT THE "SOMETHING" SHOULD BE THE RESCINDING OF THE POPPY BAN AND REINSTITUTING CULTIVATION UNDER CONDITIONS OF IMPROVED SURVEILLANCE. POLITICAL PRESSURE WILL HEIGHTEN OF COURSE WHEN TURK PUBLIC LEARNS THAT INDIA BEING URGED TO INCREASE ITS POPPY PRODUCTION.

2. THE GOT HAS NOT, HOWEVER, MADE UP ITS MIND WHAT COURSE IT SHOULD FINALLY FOLLOW. GUNES' APPROACH TO ME SHOULD BE REGARDED AS INITIATION OF GOT EFFORT TO TEST THE WATERS ON THIS SUBJECT IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN (A) JUST HOW TOUGH WE WILL BE WITH RESPECT TO IT, AND (B) WHETHER GOT

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CAN GET SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM USG FOR POPPY

REGIONS IN RETURN FOR CONTINUATION OF POPPY BAN.

3. THE USG IS ALSO IN A SITUATION WHERE IT NEEDS TO TEST THE WATERS, THAT IS, TO ASCERTAIN THE REAL COSTS TO US OVERALL INTERESTS OF UNYIELDING INSISTENCE THAT BAN IN ITS PRESENT FORM BE MAINTAINED.

4. GIVEN FOREGOING, IT SEEMS TO ME UNWISE TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO GUNES' REQUEST IN ITS PRESENT FORM. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CANNOT, AS A FRIEND OF TURKEY, REFUSE EVEN TO TALK OVER A PROBLEM THEY SEE AS A VERY SERIOUS ONE.

5. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THE BEST RESPONSE WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: (A) THE USG EXPECTS THAT BAN WILL NOT BE LIFTED, THAT AGREEMENT GOT REACHED WITH USG WILL CONTINUE TO BE HONORED; (B) RESUMPTION OF LICIT POPPY CULTIVATION IS NOT REPEAT NOT THE ANSWER TO THE HISTORIC ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES OF FORMER POPPY AREAS, AND IT SERIOUSLY MISLEADING TO SUGGEST THIS TO FARMERS LIVING THERE; (C) MOST MONEY USG HAS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED FOR USE IN POPPY PROVINCES HAD NOT YET EVEN BEEN USED BY GOT; AND (D) IF AFTER REMAINING FUNDS HAVE BEEN USEFULLY SPENT, MORE FUNDS APPEAR NECESSARY, WE ARE WILLING TO LOOK INTO PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS UNDER AID CRITERIA (BUT THESE WOULD BE LOAN FUNDS AND DRA----- AT LEAST IN

PART FROM ALL TOTALS PREVIOUSLY PROJECTED FOR TURKEY).

6. ONCE THE DIALOGUE HAS BEEN INITIATED IN THIS WAY, WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. PARA 5 ABOVE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE AN UNWELCOME RESPONSE. DOWN THE ROAD WE MAY HAVE TO OFFER A SOFTENED ONE IN ITS STEAD. BUT I BELIEVE FOR PRESENT WE SHOULD "HANG TOUGH" AND THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO THIS UNLESS AND UNTIL WE FACE SERIOUS PROSPECT THAT AS A RESULT OTHER AND OVERRIDING US INTERESTS COMING INTO JEOPARDY HERE.
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